

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER FORUM**  
**Friday, May 7, 2010**  
**8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**  
**Science Museum of Minnesota—Argon Room**  
**120 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55102**

**8:30-9:00**      **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**9:00**            **Welcoming Remarks**

*Paul Martin. Senior Vice President—Science Learning, Science Museum of Minnesota.*

*Paul Labovitz. Superintendent, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, National Park Service.*

**9:15-10:00**      **The Mississippi River: A Diamond in the Rough**

Although some in the fishing community try to keep it a secret, segments of the Mississippi River in Minnesota are becoming world-class fishery for smallmouth bass, walleye, and channel catfish. Regional DNR Fisheries staff will provide an overview of the condition of the river's fisheries from St. Cloud to Anoka (a state-designated Wild and Scenic River), and south from the confluence with the Minnesota River.

*Joe Stewig and Joel Stiras. MN Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries.*

**10:00-10:15**      **Break**

**10:15-10:45**      **Bacteria in the Upper Mississippi River: What We Are Finding and How We Can Make Reductions**

At last year's kick-off workshop, participants received an overview of the Upper Mississippi River's Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process—which is underway to address bacterial contamination within a roughly 100-mile stretch of the river from St. Cloud to Hastings. That project has made strides in the past year summarizing existing data and identifying monitoring gaps. This year, participants will learn what trends the project's data analysis has identified, as well as what recommendations project managers have for both effective monitoring and for starting to understand how to reduce the input of bacterial contamination and harmful pathogens from entering the Mississippi.

*Barb Peichel. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.*

**10:45-11:15**      **UWCA: Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventure on the Urban Mississippi River**

The Mississippi River in the heart of the Twin Cities metro is a national park, yet few people realize what a tremendous—and easily accessible—recreational opportunity it provides! The river offers unparalleled opportunities for viewing wildlife, connecting to local natural resources, and seeing the Twin Cities from an entirely new perspective! The UWCA program, a partnership between the National Park Service, Wilderness Inquiry, and the Mississippi River Fund, has been getting thousands of people onto the river since its launch in 2009—most of them urban youth who report having life-changing experiences in nature through the program. Hear how the UWCA helps foster a sense of stewardship in “the next generation” of river managers.

*Greg Lais. Wilderness Inquiry.*

**11:15-11:30      Break**

**11:30-12:00      Minnesota Agriculture: Out of Step with Water Quality Standards?**

Agriculture has always played an important role in our society, and we seem to be asking it to play an increasingly more significant role as time goes on. We rely on farmers for food and fuel production and as land managers; they depend on consumers for their livelihood; and the entire system has come to rely on a little thing called The Farm Bill. We all know that agricultural production has water quality impacts (as do all land use practices) but we too often get caught up in arguments that do not move us anywhere, rather than coming to real and shared solutions. Is this bad habit jeopardizing Minnesota's reputation for doing what it takes to preserve its water resources?

*Dave Legvold. Dakota County Farmer.*

**12:00-12:45      Keynote Address: Congresswoman Betty McCollum  
"The Federal Government's Role in Protecting the Mississippi River"**

Betty McCollum is serving her fifth term in the United States Congress representing Minnesota's Fourth District, and was only the second woman elected to serve Minnesota in Congress at the time of her election in 2000. The Mississippi River has been a part of Congresswoman McCollum's lifeblood of for her entire life: she has lived near or along the river throughout her life, and it runs through her Congressional district and is therefore an important part of the communities she represents. This lifelong connection has allowed Congresswoman McCollum to observe the river and note the changes it has been through over time.

In recognition of the importance of the Mississippi River and the state's other water resources to the state of Minnesota and to the nation as a whole, Representative McCollum has offered and fought for legislation to protect this important resource, including establishing a comprehensive federal approach to water quality research that leverages national and local partners to evaluate the potential risks of pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and endocrine disrupting compounds in our water.

We are honored that Congresswoman McCollum will be with us to discuss her observations of the changes the river has undergone, her efforts to protect the Mississippi, and her vision of the federal government's role in preserving this nationally-significant resource.

**12:45              Closing Remarks**

*Lark Weller. Water Quality Coordinator, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.*

***This event has been brought to you by the National Park Service  
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